

Gartcairn Football Academy

Enclosure B – Injured Player Engagement Process

Adopted in General Meeting on 4 October 2026. Review: annually at the start of each season.

Purpose: to ensure that players who are unable to train or play through injury remain connected to their team and the club throughout their recovery.

1. When the club is notified of an injury expected to keep a player out for more than two weeks, the team's coach will confirm a named contact for that player (the coach or a CWPO).
2. The player remains in all team communications for the duration of the injury. For players under 18, communication is via parents/carers in line with club communication rules.
3. The player will continue to be invited to training sessions, match days and team social events in a non-playing capacity, where appropriate to the injury and with parental agreement.
4. The named contact will check in with the player (via parents/carers for under-18s) at least fortnightly.
5. Return to play is guided by medical advice. A graduated return plan will be agreed between the coach, the player and their parents/carers before the first match back. Coaches must not pressure a player to return ahead of medical guidance, and any disagreement about readiness is referred to the CWPO.
6. On return, the coach and player will agree realistic expectations about match sharpness and game time, and these will be communicated to parents/carers so everyone shares the same understanding.

Queries about this document should be directed to the Club Secretary or a Club Wellbeing and Protection Officer (CWPO).